

EXTERNAL TRADE OF QUEENSLAND.Three Months Ended 31st March, 1957.

During the three months ended 31st March, 1957, exports from Queensland were worth £73,126,873, of which £50,106,247 was to oversea destinations and £23,020,626 to other Australian States and Territories. Imports were valued at £53,045,386, of which £10,686,670 came from overseas and £42,358,716 from other States and Territories.

The quarter thus ended with a favourable balance of £20m. of exports in excess of imports, which was a marked improvement on the position in the corresponding quarter of 1956, when imports exceeded exports by £5 $\frac{1}{2}$ m. Exports were over £30m. greater than in the March quarter of 1956, oversea exports of £50m. being twice as great in value as in the earlier quarter, while interstate exports increased from £17m. to £23m. Among oversea exports the outstanding rise was in wool which increased from nearly £10m. to nearly £26m. Other commodities showing high values sent overseas were - sugar (£7.5m.), copper (£0.9m.), lead (£1.6m.), titanium and zirconium ores, &c. (£2.0m.), and other metals, ores, &c. (£0.9m.). The increase of £6m. in interstate exports was largely contributed to by sugar exports of £5.3m., an increase of £2.8m. over the figure for March quarter, 1956, while butter (£2.0m.) and many other items showed high figures. Imports from overseas were lower than in the March quarter of 1956 in nearly all important items, while the increase in interstate imports was most marked in petroleum and shale oils.

Details of oversea and interstate exports and imports during the three months ended 31st March, 1957, in comparison with the corresponding three months of 1956, are given in the tables appended hereto.

Nine Months Ended 31st March, 1957.

External trade of Queensland during the first three quarters of the financial year 1956-57 is summarised below and compared with corresponding figures for the first three quarters of 1955-56 (in brackets).

| | | | Thousand £. | | |
|---|----|-------------------|-------------------|---------------------------|--|
| | | <u>Exports.</u> | <u>Imports.</u> | <u>Excess of Exports.</u> | |
| <u>Oversea and Interstate Trade.</u> | | | | | |
| Oversea .. | .. | 136,677 (107,801) | 35,851 (45,158) | 100,826 (62,643) | |
| Interstate .. | .. | 79,102 (67,217) | 133,050 (119,518) | 53,948* (52,301)* | |
| Total .. | .. | 215,779 (175,018) | 168,901 (164,676) | 46,878 (10,342) | |
| <u>Main Commodity Groups.</u> | | | | | |
| Foodstuffs of animal origin | | 31,718 (33,229) | 2,856 (3,112) | 28,862 (30,117) | |
| Foodstuffs, &c. of vegetable origin .. | .. | 60,199 (49,413) | 13,297 (12,503) | 46,902 (36,910) | |
| Animal & vegetable substances (not foodstuffs) .. | | 75,663 (50,847) | 11,364 (8,996) | 64,299 (41,851) | |
| Apparel and textiles | .. | 3,926 (3,398) | 25,855 (26,464) | 21,929* (23,066)* | |
| Oils, fats, and waxes | .. | 3,054 (2,769) | 12,495 (9,587) | 9,441* (6,818)* | |
| Minerals, metals, and manufactures thereof | | 31,511 (24,369) | 65,881 (67,458) | 34,370* (43,089)* | |
| Other items | .. | 9,708 (10,993) | 37,153 (36,556) | 27,445* (25,563)* | |
| All items | .. | 215,779 (175,018) | 168,901 (164,676) | 46,878 (10,342) | |

* Excess of imports.

After two years in which the surplus of exports in Queensland's external trade during the first three quarters was only about £10m., the corresponding balance of exports for 1956-57 rose to nearly £47m. which was higher than the corresponding 1955-56 figure. The improvement was due chiefly to a rise of nearly £29m. in exports overseas and a reduction of over £9m. in imports from overseas. At the same time, the interstate excess of imports of about £54m. was very similar to the interstate balance in the corresponding part of 1955-56, a rise in interstate imports of over £13m. having been nearly matched by an increase in exports to other States.

The principal cause of the increase in oversea exports was greater wool exports which were worth £56 $\frac{1}{2}$ m. compared with £35 $\frac{1}{2}$ m. in the corresponding nine months of 1955-56. Sugar of which £24 $\frac{1}{2}$ m. was sent overseas was up by over £6m., and other items showing substantial increases were metals and metallic concentrates, particularly titanium and zirconium concentrates and blister copper. Meat, butter, and canned fruit exports were less than in the corresponding period of the previous year. The reduction in imports from overseas was spread over all classed except foodstuffs of vegetable origin where there was a substantial increase in imports of tea.

The increase in exports to other States was chiefly in foodstuffs of various kinds, notable among these being meat and butter, less of these having been sent overseas. Sugar exports to other States were also high. The most outstanding amongst the increased imports from other States were petroleum and shale oils, of which interstate sources replaced oversea imports to a large extent.

Information is not available as to the amount of Queensland's imports from overseas which are obtained indirectly through other States and which is included in the collected figures for interstate imports. However, on the reasonable assumption that Queensland obtains the same value of commodities per head of population as the other States do from overseas, Queensland's interstate trade can be sub-divided to show (a) indirect oversea imports and (b) imports of other States' produce. This has been done in the following statement which summarises the trade position during the first nine months of each of the last four financial years.

First Nine Months of Each Financial Year - (Million £).

| | | | <u>1953-54.</u> | <u>1954-55.</u> | <u>1955-56.</u> | <u>1956-57.</u> |
|---|------------------------|--|-----------------|-----------------|-----------------|-----------------|
| Exports to overseas | | | 134.1 | 115.1 | 107.8 | 136.7 |
| " " other States | | | <u>54.2</u> | <u>58.4</u> | <u>67.2</u> | <u>79.1</u> |
| | Total exports | | <u>188.3</u> | <u>173.5</u> | <u>175.0</u> | <u>215.8</u> |
| Imports direct from overseas | | | 41.5 | 50.8 | 45.2 | 35.8 |
| " from overseas via other States | | | <u>30.5</u> | <u>39.2</u> | <u>44.8</u> | <u>41.5</u> |
| " of other States' produce | | | <u>74.5</u> | <u>74.2</u> | <u>74.7</u> | <u>91.6</u> |
| | Total imports | | <u>146.5</u> | <u>164.2</u> | <u>164.7</u> | <u>168.9</u> |
| Export surplus | | | <u>41.8</u> | <u>9.3</u> | <u>10.3</u> | <u>46.9</u> |

In 1954-55 exports to overseas decreased in value and imports rose to a high level reducing Queensland's total excess of exports for the nine months to less than £10m., and the corresponding period in 1955-56 recorded a similarly low balance. During 1956-57 the balance has recovered again to nearly £47m. for the nine months, due to improved exports both to overseas and to other States. Imports have remained remarkably stable over the past three years in spite of restricted oversea imports. A drastic reduction in direct oversea imports, from £50.8m. in the nine months to March, 1956, to £35.8m. in the corresponding part of 1956-57, was offset by a rise in imports of other States' produce. Thus, the improved trade position was entirely due to an increase in exports, those to overseas having recovered to their 1953-54 level and those to other States being 46 per cent. higher than they were in the corresponding part of 1953-54.

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BRISBANE.

31st October, 1957.

Table 1.

Value of Exports from Queensland, Three Months Ended March, 1956 and 1957.

| Commodity. | Three Months Ended March, 1956. | | Three Months Ended March, 1957. | |
|---|------------------------------------|------------------------|------------------------------------|------------------------|
| | To Overseas. | To Other States. | To Overseas. | To Other States. |
| Beef and veal, fresh or pres. by cold process | £ | £ | £ | £ |
| Other meat, &c. " " " " | 2,201,555 | 223,961 | 3,657,160 | 207,979 |
| Bacon and hams | 142,361 | 75,621 | 279,016 | 94,083 |
| Meat, poultry, &c.- preserved in tins, &c. | 10,055 | 187,790 | 20,139 | 179,333 |
| Butter | 923,153 | 156,874 | 1,204,372 | 206,697 |
| Cheese | 2,136,800 | 38,228 | 1,573,124 | 2,029,225 |
| Eggs, in shell or in liquid form | 114,188 | 96,022 | 120,098 | 184,660 |
| Other foodstuffs of animal origin | 33,527 | 19,276 | 147,626 | 4 |
| <u>Total foodstuffs of animal origin</u> | <u>157,430</u> | <u>69,328</u> | <u>277,479</u> | <u>145,853</u> |
| | <u>5,719,069</u> | <u>867,100</u> | <u>7,279,014</u> | <u>3,047,834</u> |
| Wheat | 835,176 | 1,241 | 1,135 | 147 |
| Sorghum | 111 | 2,487 | 2,379 | 2,919 |
| Other grains, unprepared or simply prepared | 727,280 | 61,858 | 398,177 | 115,785 |
| Flour, wheaten | 92,590 | 90,496 | 190,340 | 103,654 |
| Vegetables, fresh | 4,121 | 257,430 | 2,512 | 98,580 |
| Fruit, fresh | 10,729 | 395,841 | 3,039 | 578,312 |
| Fruit, preserved in liquid or pulped | 646,227 | 539,331 | 300,411 | 662,494 |
| Peanuts, including paste | - | 358,049 | - | 305,992 |
| Sugar, raw or refined | 4,315,318 | 2,522,009 | 7,499,282 | 5,300,191 |
| Other foodstuffs of veg. origin, beverages | 115,025 | 422,203 | 85,207 | 482,539 |
| <u>Total foodstuffs of vegetable origin and beverages</u> | <u>6,746,577</u> | <u>4,650,945</u> | <u>8,482,482</u> | <u>7,650,613</u> |
| Tobacco, unmanufactured | - | 681,347 | 1,018 | 174,499 |
| Manufactures of tobacco | 5,091 | 138,198 | 4,614 | 161,356 |
| Live animals | 37,941 | 2,443,271 | 96,065 | 2,633,768 |
| Hides and skins | 219,890 | 141,750 | 449,740 | 144,104 |
| Wool, greasy or scoured | 9,963,281 | 20,443 | 25,833,738 | 333,998 |
| Other animal substances, not food | 179,730 | 41,359 | 297,307 | 52,963 |
| Vegetable subs. and fibres, incl. raw cotton | 597,983 | 64,763 | 912,566 | 143,010 |
| <u>Total animals, animal and vegetable sub- stances, tobacco</u> | <u>11,003,916</u> | <u>3,531,131</u> | <u>27,595,048</u> | <u>3,643,698</u> |
| Yarns, piece goods, and textiles | 22,005 | 545,878 | 20,239 | 710,357 |
| Apparel | 21,088 | 520,303 | 25,020 | 554,499 |
| Tallow | 76,778 | 31,993 | 244,192 | 25,266 |
| Animal and vegetable oils and fats | 39,848 | 130,913 | 113,966 | 82,053 |
| Oils, fats, and waxes, n.e.i. | 5,926 | 228,152 | 76,274 | 224,621 |
| Coal | - | 50,501 | 191 | 90,152 |
| Copper - blister, ingots, scrap, &c. .. | 423 | 2,130,111 | 949,819 | 2,038,534 |
| Lead, in metallic form or matte | 310,109 | 4,124 | 1,645,871 | 135 |
| Titanium and zirconium ores, sands, &c. .. | 801,866 | 301 | 1,998,780 | 720 |
| Other metals, ores, sands, and concentrates | 78,286 | 334,500 | 873,283 | 236,685 |
| Motor vehicles and cycles, cycles, and parts | 2,171 | 571,331 | 8,970 | 542,919 |
| Machines and machinery | 160,198 | 597,577 | 105,113 | 796,666 |
| Other metal manufactures | 82,764 | 449,172 | 209,404 | 726,284 |
| Rubber and rubber manufactures | 4,425 | 765,347 | 12,565 | 792,609 |
| Leather and leather manufactures | 45,795 | 172,871 | 65,768 | 176,266 |
| Timber, including logs | 25,927 | 83,104 | 19,790 | 121,364 |
| Furniture and veneers | 10,925 | 744,369 | 25,713 | 755,203 |
| Other items, n.e.i. | 280,626 | 626,177 | 354,745 | 804,148 |
| <u>Total other commodities</u> | <u>1,969,160</u> | <u>7,986,724</u> | <u>6,749,703</u> | <u>8,678,481</u> |
| <u>Total value of all exports</u> | <u>25,438,722</u> | <u>17,035,900</u> | <u>50,106,247</u> | <u>23,020,626</u> |

Table 2.

Value of Imports into Queensland, Three Months Ended March, 1956 and 1957.

| Commodity. | Three Months Ended March, 1956. | | Three Months Ended March, 1957. | |
|---|------------------------------------|--------------------------|------------------------------------|--------------------------|
| | From Overseas. | From Other States. | From Overseas. | From Other States. |
| Meat, poultry, &c.- fresh or preserved .. | 31 | 146,201 | 43 | 194,924 |
| Milk and cream, including infants' food .. | - | 361,792 | 2,009 | 406,077 |
| Fish, fresh or preserved | 174,642 | 113,555 | 132,831 | 76,013 |
| Other foodstuffs of animal origin | 14,066 | 97,186 | 3,690 | 125,471 |
| <u>Total foodstuffs of animal origin</u> | <u>188,739</u> | <u>718,734</u> | <u>138,573</u> | <u>802,485</u> |
| Potatoes, fresh | - | 413,407 | - | 231,610 |
| Other fresh vegetables | - | 289,927 | - | 229,788 |
| Fruit, fresh | - | 321,180 | - | 384,372 |
| Fruit, dried or evaporated | - | 56,780 | 257 | 48,300 |
| Fruit & vegetables, preserved in liquid, &c. | 3,288 | 361,614 | 1,000 | 438,949 |
| Tea | 338,060 | 7,674 | 823,804 | 1,890 |
| Coffee and cocoa | 24,275 | 201,390 | 18,421 | 199,578 |
| Confectionery | 435 | 541,692 | 512 | 551,893 |
| Other foodstuffs of vegetable origin | 62,158 | 894,532 | 55,217 | 1,366,420 |
| Ale, beer, and porter | 1,666 | 336,727 | 224 | 217,862 |
| Wine and spirits | 25,569 | 218,352 | 20,370 | 189,393 |
| <u>Total foodstuffs, &c., of vegetable origin</u> | <u>455,451</u> | <u>3,643,275</u> | <u>919,805</u> | <u>3,860,055</u> |
| Tobacco, manufactured or unmanufactured .. | 15,775 | 1,355,056 | 8,783 | 1,634,354 |
| Live animals | 82 | 306,109 | 343 | 750,178 |
| Wool, greasy or scoured | - | 176,514 | - | 646,348 |
| Other animal & veg. subst., mainly unmanufd. | 147,870 | 239,229 | 149,460 | 374,843 |
| <u>Total animals, animal and vegetable substances, tobacco</u> | <u>163,727</u> | <u>2,076,908</u> | <u>158,586</u> | <u>3,405,723</u> |
| Yarns, threads, cordage, and twines | 64,380 | 288,211 | 92,024 | 227,966 |
| Bags and sacks | 50,519 | 66,253 | 127,225 | 88,656 |
| Piece goods, blankets, and towels | 951,689 | 1,605,695 | 650,712 | 1,743,660 |
| Linoleum | 71,946 | 72,068 | 87,324 | 121,155 |
| Carpets and floor coverings, n.e.i. | 83,419 | 116,944 | 43,969 | 155,996 |
| Textiles, n.e.i. | 39,124 | 342,953 | 20,988 | 491,111 |
| Footwear | 14,739 | 655,573 | 7,489 | 704,135 |
| Apparel, n.e.i. | 73,461 | 2,759,992 | 47,357 | 3,245,995 |
| <u>Total yarns, fibres, textiles, and apparel</u> | <u>1,349,277</u> | <u>5,907,689</u> | <u>1,077,088</u> | <u>6,778,674</u> |
| Kerosene | 390,273 | 1,891 | 323,332 | 1,327 |
| Lubricating mineral oil | 140,358 | 111,957 | 342,828 | 76,672 |
| Petroleum and shale oils | 1,817,342 | 218,578 | 559,711 | 2,529,132 |
| Oils, fats, and waxes, n.e.i. | 27,580 | 188,753 | 31,308 | 369,156 |
| Pigments, paints, varnishes | 56,604 | 474,712 | 72,942 | 472,358 |
| <u>Total oils, paints, &c.</u> | <u>2,432,157</u> | <u>995,891</u> | <u>1,330,121</u> | <u>3,448,645</u> |
| Rocks and minerals | 111,814 | 105,783 | 76,535 | 147,853 |
| Iron and steel, plate and sheet, galv., &c. | 1,542 | 518,101 | - | 439,820 |
| " " " " " , other .. | 479,802 | 348,045 | 456,982 | 586,789 |
| " " " , pipes and tubes | 19,270 | 654,847 | 21,390 | 460,810 |
| " " " , other | 665,154 | 1,224,326 | 188,108 | 1,712,094 |
| Non-ferrous metals | 14,809 | 290,869 | 18,218 | 327,528 |
| Kitchenware, including heating appliances .. | 36,708 | 241,737 | 21,680 | 317,250 |
| Hardware, including tools | 137,908 | 702,259 | 124,578 | 876,639 |
| Other metal manufactures, except machinery .. | 313,697 | 587,292 | 263,896 | 712,002 |
| Railway and tramway vehicles, incl. locos. .. | 25,941 | 48,236 | 13,443 | 71,665 |
| Motor vehicles & cycles, cycles, and parts .. | 1,521,131 | 3,681,282 | 1,077,402 | 4,005,851 |
| Tractors and parts | 806,192 | 996,633 | 848,415 | 1,008,218 |
| Electrical apparatus and machinery | 556,447 | 1,928,107 | 338,314 | 2,076,586 |
| Household machines | 26,253 | 967,795 | 27,569 | 1,026,348 |
| Agricultural, &c. machines and implements .. | 161,819 | 735,489 | 93,169 | 1,223,379 |
| Other machinery | 1,092,922 | 1,150,603 | 1,222,632 | 1,030,055 |
| <u>Total minerals, metals, metal manuf., &c.</u> | <u>5,971,409</u> | <u>14,181,404</u> | <u>4,792,331</u> | <u>16,022,887</u> |

Table 2 (continued).

Value of Imports into Queensland, Three Months Ended March, 1956 and 1957.

| Commodity. | Three Months Ended March, 1956. | | Three Months Ended March, 1957. | |
|---|------------------------------------|--------------------------|------------------------------------|--------------------------|
| | From Overseas. | From Other States. | From Overseas. | From Other States. |
| Rubber tyres and tubes | 36,658 | 728,220 | 49,736 | 915,568 |
| Other rubber and rubber manufactures .. | 441,232 | 288,043 | 302,154 | 378,246 |
| Timber, including logs | 157,781 | 37,610 | 96,946 | 55,680 |
| Furniture, wood and wicker manufactures .. | 26,286 | 83,020 | 27,557 | 77,011 |
| Portland cement | 754 | 1,272 | 615 | 1,104 |
| Glass and glassware | 82,033 | 140,032 | 93,880 | 144,117 |
| Crockery and household ware, n.e.i. .. | 130,565 | 64,263 | 87,095 | 58,328 |
| Other earthenware, china, stoneware, &c. | 34,670 | 166,008 | 28,885 | 167,516 |
| Paper, paper boards, pulp | 461,684 | 534,689 | 438,209 | 569,683 |
| Stationery and paper manufactures, books | 162,042 | 562,662 | 163,765 | 599,431 |
| Jewellery, &c., fancy and sporting goods | 75,064 | 430,839 | 54,348 | 447,304 |
| Scientific instruments and appliances .. | 99,014 | 238,393 | 95,327 | 266,719 |
| Medical & toilet preparations, soap, drugs, &c. | 68,891 | 1,618,366 | 54,052 | 1,823,121 |
| Fertilisers | 106,471 | 383,483 | 49,807 | 319,347 |
| Other drugs and chemicals | 134,588 | 911,698 | 162,103 | 927,860 |
| Other goods | 535,000 | 1,149,688 | 565,687 | 1,289,212 |
| Total other commodities | 2,552,733 | 7,338,286 | 2,270,166 | 8,040,247 |
| Total value of all imports | 13,113,493 | 34,862,187 | 10,686,670 | 42,358,716 |

Table 3.

Quantities of Certain Commodities Exported and Imported, Queensland,
Three Months Ended March, 1957.

| Commodity. | Unit. | Total Exports. | Total Imports. |
|---|----------|-------------------|-------------------|
| Beef and veal - fresh, chilled, or frozen .. | cwt. | 517,262 | n |
| Meat, poultry, &c. - preserved in tins, &c. .. | cwt. | 101,185 | 9,065 |
| Milk and cream, incl. infants' and invalids' food | cwt. | n | 24,783 |
| Fish, fresh or preserved | cwt. | n | 11,671 |
| Butter | cwt. | 188,356 | n |
| Wheat | bushels | 1,680 | 445,984 |
| Maize | bushels | 7,400 | n |
| Millet and panicum | tons | 3,813 | n |
| Sorghum | tons | 222 | n |
| Flour, wheaten | tons | 9,691 | n |
| Potatoes | tons | n | 4,760 |
| Pineapples, fresh | bushels | 207,816 | n |
| Dates, raisins, sultanas, &c. | lb. | n | 88,461 |
| Other dried or evaporated fruits | lb. | 48,501 | 258,804 |
| Pineapples, preserved in liquid | cwt. | 89,700 | n |
| Other fruit preserved in liquid | cwt. | 33,217 | 13,853 |
| Peanuts, including peanut paste | lb. | 3,856,435 | n |
| Sugar, raw or refined | tons | 282,543 | n |
| Tea | lb. | n | 3,087,120 |
| Confectionery | lb. | n | 3,672,864 |
| Ale, beer, and porter | gallons | n | 270,363 |
| Tobacco, unmanufactured | lb. | 299,001 | 14,360 |
| Cattle | number | 95,453 | 7,530 |
| Sheep | number | 94,498 | 126,982 |
| Wool, greasy | lb. | 65,089,749 | 1,506,047 |
| Wool, scoured, &c. | lb. | 3,380,088 | 171,187 |
| Kerosene | gallons | n | 5,691,183 |
| Other fuel oils | gallons | n | 37,440,516 |
| Timber, including logs | sup. ft. | 1,723,223 | 3,959,197 |
| Plywood | sq. ft. | 17,170,859 | n |
| Veneers | sq. ft. | 3,149,530 | n |

n Not recorded separately, but nil or only a small quantity.